

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 ST-01 SCS-03 EB-07 COME-00

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FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 5129

INFO USDOC

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL SHIRAZ

USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EWWT, BGEN, ELAB, MMOL, SA

SUBJECT: PORT OF DAMMAM SITREP -- NOVEMBER 1976

REF: DHAHRAN 1402

1. AS OF DECEMBER 4 THERE WERE 105 SHIPS REGISTERED TO BERTH (6 PERCENT FEWER THAN AT BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER) IN DAMMAM PORT. CARGO ON SHIPS AWAITING BERTHS WAS CALCULATED TO BE 806,999 TONS -- A SIX PERCENT INCREASE OVER BEGINNING OF PREVIOUS MONTH WHICH CAN BE EXPLAINED BY 145,000 TONS ARRIVING ON SHIPS WAITING FOR BERTHS WHILE ONLY 49,000 TONS WERE DISCHARGED OVER THE EID HOLIDAY PERIOD. SHIPS PRESENTLY REGISTERED TO BETTH WITH GENERAL CARGO CAN ANTICIPATE 15-20 DAY BERTHING DELAY.
2. PORT HANDLED 460,000 TONS OF CARGO DURING NOVEMBER -- DUPLICATING RECORD OF PREVIOUS MONTH. DAILY DISCHARGE RATE, HOWEVER, WAS BETTER AS NOVEMBER IS 30-DAY MONTH. RO-RO SHIPMENTS CONTRIBUTED ONLY 22,000 TONS TO MONTHLY TOTAL BUT, NEVERTHELESS

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PORT MANAGEMENT BELIEVES THEY PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE IN
SPEEDING OPERATIONS OF PORT AS MUCH DIFFICULT-TO-DISCHARGE

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CARGO NOW ARRIVES ON RO-RO VESSELS. SITUATION IN BARGE

PORT HAS IMPROVED TO EXTENT THAT THERE WERE NO, RPT, NO LASH BARGES AWAITING DISCHARGE ON DECEMBER 1.

3. ONLY DARK SPOT ON IMPROVED PORT PICTURE IS STRING OF SHIPS OUTSIDE PORT WAITING TO DISCHARGE CEMENT. HOWEVER, IT IS FORESEEN PICTURE WILL CHANGE GREATLY OVER NEXT FEW MONTHS. DUTCH/ALIREZA CONSORTIUM (SEE PARA 2 OF REFTTEL), WHICH WILL DISCHARGE CEMENT VIA LARGE BARGES ANCHORED OFF-SHORE, SHOULD START MOVING CEMENT THROUGH THE PORT BY RATE OF 3,000 TONS PER DAY BY END OF DECEMBER. ALSO, LATE IN OCTOBER, ALGOSAIBI LST-TYPE OPERATION BEGIN TAKING CEMENT OFFSHIPS IN STREAM BY DISCHARGING IT DIRECTLY INTO TRUCKS WHICH, LATER, WERE DRIVEN ASHORE FROM BERTHED

LST AND OVERLAND TO CONSIGNEE. AFTER SHAKY START, ALGOSNIBI OPERATION IS NOW DISCHARGING 800 TONS OF CEMENT A DAY AND FIGURE, IN FIRST QUARTER 1977, IS DUE TO CLIMB TO 4,000 TONS A DAY WITH ARRIVAL OF THREE MORE JAPANESE-CONSTRUCTED LST'S WHICH ALGOSAIBI FAMILY HAS PURCHASED.

4. LOOKING AHEAD, PROJECTED INCREASE IN CEMENT DISCHARGE RATES SHOULD GREATLY DECREASE AMOUNT OF CARGO THAT IS AWAITING DISCHARGE

ON SHIPS OUTSIDE PORT. PORT'S MANAGEMENT STATES THAT ABILITY OF PORT TO IMPROVE ITS PERFORMANCE STILL HANGS ON THE NUMBER OF "EVADOREANDS" IT HAS AVAILABLE. TO THAT END THE RECENT ARRIVAL OF KOREAN DOCK WORKERS HOLDS PROSPECT OF PORT NOT ONLY HAVING MORE WORKMEN BUT HIGH-PRODUCTIVITY WORKMAN. QUALITY OF KOREAN MANAGEMENT IS NOT ONLY IMPRESSIVE BUT TWO TOP MANAGERS ARE FARM OUT-GOING TYPES WHO HAVE HIT IT OFF WELL WITH PORT OFFICIALDOM.
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